

Subject: : KR position on script-hybrid Han ideographs

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Status: NB position

1. Introduction

Recently, script-hybrid Han ideographs were discussed at the IRG meeting. However, the discussion is still in its early stages, and there is a lack of consensus on the understanding and necessity of encoding script-hybrid Han ideographs, which has prevented the achievement of agreement among experts.

In this situation, it is believed that several matters, which are shown in Sections 2 and succeeding Sections below, must be prioritized and decided in order to proceed with the encoding work of script-hybrid Han ideographs.

2. Should they be treated as Han characters? Should they be included in CJKUI?

1) Among the script-hybrid Han ideographs proposed by Gen Kojitani, many characters are combinations of Han characters and phonetic characters, borrowing parts of Han to create new forms.

- Such forms of characters are considered a variant of Han characters in Korea, and there have already been numerous cases of encoding these chars in UCS.

2) In the case of Korea, all script-hybrid characters proposed in Korea and already included in UCS are characters found in classical literature before 1900 (or at the latest, before 1945). There have been very few new script-hybrid Han characters created since then, and the likelihood of new ones being created and used in the future also appears to be very low.

3) Therefore, by referencing the case of Korea, one can consider the possibility of deciding whether to include script-hybrid Han ideographs in

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CJKUI based on the period in which the characters were created and used.

- This is because characters that combine Han characters and phonetic scripts used in Korea and Japan before 1900 (or at the latest, before 1945) are very likely to have been regarded as part of the Han character system, even if they are not complete Han characters.
- It is possible to consider including script-hybrid characters from before 1900 (or 1945) in CJKUI, while for those created afterward, it should be discussed within the IRG whether to include them in CJKUI or to create a new block for them.

3. How will the discussion be conducted?

- 1) Since many of the script-hybrid Han ideographs proposed by Gen Kojitani appear to belong to the so-called 'Wasei kanji' (和製漢字) created in Japan, it seems necessary to first discuss whether to include these 'Wasei kanji' in the CJKUI block.
- 2) For reference, the "Dictionary of Wasei Kanji 2014" (和製漢字の辞典2014) compiled by Ohara Nojomu contains over 3,230 Han characters, a significant number of which do not appear to be encoded in UCS yet.
- 3) Korean experts do not have a deep understanding of Wasei kanji. It would be very helpful for the discussion if Japanese experts and the Japanese NB could provide their opinions in writing to the IRG on whether it is advisable to include Wasei kanji in UCS.
- 4) Each MB (Member Body) is likely to be well-informed about the script-hybrid characters related to each MB, so it is requested that each MB provide their opinions on the script-hybrid characters relevant to them.
 - For example, it would be good if Taiwan could provide opinions on characters that include Bopomofo, Japan on characters that include Kana, and China on characters for ethnic minorities in China.

5) In the case of Korea, the number of candidate script-hybrid Han
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ideographs that have not yet been included in UCS is currently estimated to be almost 0, so Korea has no special opinions.

4. Will it be addressed by the IRG?

- 1) It seems desirable that script-hybrid characters that include Han characters or Han-based chars such as Kana (Katakana, Hiragana) or Bopomofo be addressed by the IRG, as they contain Han characters, regardless of whether the discussion results in their inclusion in the CJKUI block or the creation of a new block.
- 2) However, for script-hybrid characters that do not include any Han characters or Han-based chars such as Kana (Katakana, Hiragana) or Bopomofo, IRG could consider the possibility that they may not be addressed by the IRG.

5. Estimated number of script-hybrid characters by each MB

- 1) It is suggested that each MB estimate the number of script-hybrid characters and present it to the IRG. The approach may vary significantly depending on whether the number of characters is in the tens, hundreds, or exceeds a thousand.
- 2) In the case of Korea, the number of new script-hybrid candidate Han characters is currently estimated to be almost 0, and at most, it is considered to be in the tens.

6. Conclusion

The various points discussed above may assist in the encoding work of script-hybrid Han ideographs.

It is strongly suggested that the encoding work for script-hybrid characters should begin only after a thorough understanding and consensus among experts within IRG have been achieved.

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Additionally, since the linguistic environments differ by country, it is advisable to take the time to discuss thoroughly the points discussed above and establish clear principles before proceeding, as unforeseen issues may arise.

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